

CLAIMS

1. An improved method of manufacturing a curable laminate (10) that is plastically deformable until cured, the laminate comprising at least one layer (12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, or 24), the method comprising
- 5 a) layering the at least one layer (12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, or 24) to form an uncured laminate 10,
- b) modifying at least one of the longitudinal edges (26 or 28) of the uncured laminate 10 to prevent plastic deformation of the longitudinal edge (26 or 28) during curing of the laminate 10 as a whole, and
- 10 c) curing the laminate 10,
- the improved method being characterized by:
- the modification of a longitudinal edge (26 or 28) being selected from the group consisting of at least partially precuring the edge (26 or 28) to convert it from a plastically deformable material to a thermoset material and applying a restrictive and removable material (30) to the edge (26 or 28) during at least a portion of its cure.
- 15
2. An improved method of manufacturing a curable laminate (10) in accordance with claim 1, the method being characterized by the restrictive and removable material (30) is a tape-strip (30) and the tape-strip (30) being selected from the group consisting of a film strip, foil strip, textile strip, mesh strip, and any combination of these materials.
- 20
3. An improved method of manufacturing a curable laminate (10) in accordance with claim 1, the method being characterized by the restrictive and removable material (30) is a pre-formed material (30), the pre-formed material (30) having an overall configuration corresponding to the configuration of the longitudinal edge (26 or 28) of the uncured laminate (10).
- 25
4. An improved method of manufacturing a curable laminate (10) in accordance with claim 3, the method being characterized by the pre-formed material (30) being selected from the group consisting of film, foil, mesh, plastic, a lightweight metal construct, and any combination of these.
- 30
5. An improved method of manufacturing a curable laminate (10) in accordance with claim 1,

Deposited by [Signature]

the method being characterized by the further step of removing the restrictive and removable material (30) following curing of the laminate (10).